

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

7272 Cleanwater Lane, LU-11 • Olympia, Washington 98504 • (206) 753-2353

February 7, 1983

Mr. Paul Sweet
Grays Harbor-Pacific Health Department
2109 Sumner Avenue
Aberdeen, Washington 98520

Subject: Hoquiam Landfill

Dear Mr. Sweet:

Our joint inspection on February 1, 1983 of the Hoquiam Landfill confirmed your earlier observation that the operation of this facility had become very sloppy. The leachate collection system was not working due to either neglect or disregard. The lateral ditching on the hillside was not in noticable operation. It appears that it had been completely buried by garbage. The result is that most or all of the surface and groundwater is percolating and surfacing in the garbage. This water is not being contained and collected by the leachate collection system. It, as we observed, is directly entering the Hoquiam River. Preliminary results of the leachate indicate a pH of 8.6, a specific conductivity of 552, and a total Alkalinity of 212.

It appears that the Hoquiam Landfill has three basic violations. These are as follows:

1. Non-compliance with WAC 173-301
2. Non-maintenance of the side-hill surface drainage and leachate collection system
3. Direct discharge of leachate to the Hoquiam River - RCW 90.48.080 and WAC 173-301

All three of these items relate to solid waste management or mismanagement and can therefore be tackled under WAC 173-301. The Department would like the county to take an action against the City of Hoquiam requiring them to bring the landfill into compliance with the state and county standards and to eliminate the discharge of leachate to the Hoquiam River. When we receive a copy of your order, we will proceed with our enforcement under RCW 90.48. I will be recommending a penalty be issued and that the discharge of leachate to the Hoquiam River be corrected immediately.

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I have been really encouraged by our cooperative approach on the Hoquiam and Haggara sites and hope we can continue in this mode. I feel that a pre-order meeting between Mr. Battersby, the WDOE and the Grays Harbor Health Department is needed to define specific violations of WAC 173-301 and to develop feasible solutions and time tables. I am looking forward to your response to my letter.

Sincerely,

Frank Monahan for Greg Cloud.

Greg Cloud
Environmental Quality Inspector

GC:tw